

MR. GEO. P. LARRICK
COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Person
MAR 20 1957
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

F. J. McFarland, Assistant to the Director
Bureau of Biological and Physical Sciences

American Cyanamid Co
New York N Y (AF 14-731)

Tolerances for hydrogen cyanide
Pesticide Petition No. 94

The petitioner American Cyanamid Company requested extension of the tolerances for residues of hydrogen cyanide from its use in the fumigation of buckwheat, oats, and sorghum. The petitioner also requested the establishment of tolerances of 100 ppm for residues of hydrogen cyanide from fumigation of spices. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has certified usefulness. They estimate that the tolerances requested reasonably reflect the amount of residues likely to result on 22 spices and the 3 grains, but do not find the requested tolerances adequate for 14 spices.

The Division of Food finds that tolerances of 250 ppm are required for fumigation of certain whole spices and then only provided the spices are held for 7 days following fumigation. When advised of these findings the petitioner amended the petition to request a tolerance of 250 ppm and to specify a 7 day holding period and asked that tolerances be established only for the specific whole spices on which residue data were presented in the petition. Food Division also finds that sesame is used more as a grain than as a spice and that a tolerance of 25 ppm is sufficient to permit its fumigation with hydrogen cyanide.

The Division of Pharmacology finds that hydrogen cyanide is not a chronic poison and that the amount that could be contributed to the diet by spices bearing residues of 250 ppm does not constitute an acute hazard.

They recommend that the tolerances be established as proposed.

We recommend that the order be signed.

APPROVED:

Robert S. Roe

cc DF
cc DP
cc Hearing Clerk
cc M A Ellis (30 Rockefeller Plaza)

FJMcFarland:jrs 3-11-57

NOV 24 1958

To: Frank J. McFarland, Assistant to the Director,
Bureau of Biological and Physical Sciences,
Food & Drug Administration, Department of
Health, Education and Welfare

From: Justus C. Ward, Head, Pesticide Regulation Section,
Plant Pest Control Division ARS, USDA

Subject: Certification of Usefulness of Hydrogen Cyanide

We have recently received a copy of a petition proposing a tolerance for the above named pesticidal fumigant on a number of raw agricultural commodities. This petition was submitted by the American Cyanamid Company and was filed by your Administration under date of November 6, 1958. This petition was designated as Pesticide Petition #195.

We have examined the petition, together with the supporting evidence, and find that this pesticide is a useful treatment for barley, buckwheat, corn (including popcorn), milo (grain Sorghum), oats, rice (rough and polished), rye and wheat.

We have previously certified usefulness on essentially this same group of commodities in connection with Pesticide Numbers 38 and 94.

Justus C. Ward

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

C S DF
NOV 24 1958

*Ramsay
Jurec*

Frank J. McFarland, Assistant to the Director
Bureau of Biological and Physical Sciences
Food and Drug Administration, Dept. of H. E. & W.
Justus C. Ward, Head, Pesticide Regulation Section
Plant Pest Control Division
A.R.S., U.S.D.A.

Petition (No. 195) for a Tolerance for Hydrogen Cyanide on Grains
Submitted by American Cyanamid Co. and Accepted for Filing
November 6, 1958.

We have completed our examination of the residue data, analytical method employed and other pertinent information contained in the petition to increase the present tolerance of 25 ppm for hydrogen cyanide on barley, buckwheat, corn, milo, oats, rice (rough and polished), rye, and wheat to 75 ppm. In accordance with the requirements of Public Law 518, we herein offer an opinion as to whether the proposed tolerance reasonably reflects the amounts of residue likely to result when this pesticide chemical is used as proposed.

It is the opinion of this Department that the proposed tolerance reasonably reflects the amounts of residue likely to result.

Justus C. Ward

PFST AVAILABLE CCFY

Pesticide Petition 195

February 4, 1959

Mr. F. Ray Barron, Jr.
Assistant to the Technical Director
American Cyanamid Company
P. O. Box 383
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Barron:

This confirms our telephone conversation of this date regarding Pesticide Petition No. 195 which requests an increase in the tolerance level for hydrogen cyanide in grains from 25 to 75 parts per million and which was filed on November 6, 1958.

We have completed our evaluation of this petition and are unable to conclude that the proposed tolerance would be safe.

We are unable from the data furnished to determine the safety for animals of feeds prepared from grains bearing residues at the proposed tolerance level. We also have reservations as to the adequacy of the analytical method and before we could agree to any increase in the present tolerance levels in grain we would need to know whether all of the hydrogen cyanide absorbed is quantitatively determined, and if not, whether some of it reacts with a component of the food. If a reaction product is formed and does remain in the food, it also would need to be identified and quantitatively determined.

From the data we now have we conclude that it will be necessary to continue the present tolerance of 25 ppm now in effect for residues of hydrogen cyanide on grain. You may withdraw the petition without prejudice to future filing, you may amend it by submitting a substantive amendment furnishing data on the deficiencies outlined above, or you may request that the petition be referred to an advisory committee as provided in section 408 (d) (3) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and section 120.10 of the Procedural Regulations.

We will be glad to discuss this petition with you or your representatives, however, we will need to know your decision by February 12 so that the appropriate order may be prepared.

Sincerely yours,

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

F. J. McFarland
Assistant to the Director
Bureau of Biological and Physical Sciences

cc Pesticide Regulation Branch

ARS, USDA

ATSpihar:jrs 2-4-59 Init RSR LLR OGV